

# Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

April 1, 2013

[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

## Important Dates

April 9	Brooks Tour (walking field trip)
April 19-20	Rockin' Lock In
April 26	Institute day (no school)

## Dear Families,

Welcome back from spring break! We hope that everyone had a restful and relaxing week.

If you have not already done so, please send in a permission slip and \$10 with your child to participate in the Rockin Lock In. Let us know your preferred shift preference by clicking [here](#).

Just a reminder, students are expected to be **respectful, responsible and powerful through peace** in order to earn the privilege of participating in all upcoming activities.

## Spring Food and Fund Drive

Holmes School Student Council will be sponsoring a food and fund drive to support the Oak Park and River Forest Food Pantry. Students can bring in food and monetary donation through Tuesday, April 23rd. We hope everyone participates!

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## SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

**Art** - 5th graders are sculpting the United States president they researched in Social Studies class. We will be working in clay and studying proportions found in presidential portraits. Our presidents will be three-dimensional and feature details from head to toe. Stay tuned into [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) for pictures of works in progress.

**Music** - [Check out the website!](#) We are continuing our big Theme and Variations project this week. Students will learn to play the theme of the assignment on the recorder and then create their own variations by changing different musical aspects of the piece. Each student will have their own packet for this assignment. They will work on making one variation by themselves. I will make suggestions on this variation by Wednesday and then allow them to work with me on Friday at 11:30 to improve their assignment. They may also take the assignment home to make corrections and bring it back by Friday. More details about the whole assignment will be available on the music website this week.

**Chorus** - The Wolves game is Sunday March 17th! Details will be sent home this week about where we are meeting and at what time. If you can give a ride, please email [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org). We will be singing "Don't Stop Believing" at the game.

Click here for the karaoke track:

[Don't Stop Believing Audio](#)

And here for the lyrics"

## [Don't Stop Lyrics](#)

**Spanish** - Students will continue to work with the new story about a bombero, Juan. Students can read the story for 10 puntos on the website at : <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>

**Library** - There is still one more chance to participate in Reading Olympics this year, and that is with the EXTREME competition! This competition will take place on Wednesday, April 18th at Holmes and will feature all 18 books. In order to compete, you must have been in either the spring or the fall competition (or both). The district Extreme competition is Tuesday, April 23 and will be all day at the Oak Park Public Library.

In other library news, we're continuing to read RJ Palacio's *Wonder* during library time. Take a look at the Wonder website for information about this amazing novel, <http://choosekind.tumblr.com/> Choose kind! For more on library happenings, please keep up with us on the library home page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>).

**Physical Education** - Please see Mr. Williams' link ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)) for information.

## **Reading/Literature**

This week, we will be focusing on using specific details from the text to compare and contrast two or more characters, settings and events. Students will be expected to write responses to these types of questions using textual evidence to support their answers.

## **Language Arts**

During the month of April, students will learn how to form an argument. They will take on the role of either a patriot or loyalist during the American Revolution, write an essay arguing their position, and then participate in a debate within the classroom.

## **Math**

Graded Unit 11 tests will be returned to students by the end of the week. Please review the test with your child. This week, we will be starting a unit on algebra concepts. We will be using pan balances to model algebraic equations. There will be a short quiz on Friday on what we discussed during the week.

## **Science**

We are so proud of everyone's Science Fair achievements! We are now moving into our last unit for science -- The Human Body. Students will study the various systems of the body and will complete a Prezi for their final project. We will create accounts in class this week. Prezi can be accessed by clicking this link:

<http://prezi.com/>

The unit will finish with our study of puberty and the reproductive system. If you have any questions about the content of this unit, please feel free to contact Ms. Manuel or Ms. Kraft.

## **Social Studies**

This week we will focus on the important battles of the American Revolution. Each student will be given a battle to research and report on to their fellow classmates.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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